

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The A process for automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot duration in a communication channel, comprising the steps of:

B1 determining whether data are being transmitted in a time slot in said communication ~~channel~~ channel;

adjusting said time slot duration to a first time period if said data are not being transmitted in said time slot; and

adjusting said time slot duration to a second time period if said data are being transmitted in said time slot.

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2. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process of claim 1, wherein said second time period is greater than said first time period.

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3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining whether the data being transmitted comprises a particular ~~data~~ packet type.

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B2 4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The A process for automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot duration in a communication channel, comprising the steps of:

determining whether data are being transmitted in a time slot in said communication ~~channel~~ channel;

determining whether the data being transmitted comprises a particular ~~data~~ packet type;

adjusting said time slot duration to a first time period if the data are not being transmitted in said time slot;

adjusting said time slot duration to a second time period if the data are being transmitted in said time slot; and

adjusting said time slot duration to a third time period, if said data comprises a particular ~~data~~ packet type.

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5. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process of claim 4, wherein said second time period is greater than said first time period.

B3  
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 5, wherein said third time period is greater than said first time period.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The A process of automatically adjusting a time period of a time slot duration in a data channel, comprising the steps of:  
determining the content of the a time slot in said data channel; and  
adjusting the time ~~period~~ slot duration of the time slot in response to the content of the time slot.

C1  
~~8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 7, further comprising the step of increasing said time ~~period~~ slot duration of said time slot when a particular data packet type is being transmitted in said time slot.~~

~~9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 7, further comprising the step of ~~decreasing~~ increasing said time ~~period~~ slot duration of said time slot when a particular data packet type is being transmitted in said time slot.~~

~~10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 7, further comprising the step of decreasing said time ~~period~~ slot duration of said time slot when no data are being transmitted in said time slot.~~

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for communicating data among different units, comprising:

a data channel having a plurality of time slots for transmitting and receiving data;

each unit comprising a microprocessor coupled to said data channel for monitoring and processing data; and

said microprocessor adjusting a time ~~period~~ slot duration of one of said time slots depending on content of the time slot.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 11, wherein said microprocessor adjusts the time slot duration to a first time period if the data are not transmitted, and adjusts the time slot duration to a second time period if data are being transmitted.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 12, wherein said second time period is greater than said first time period.

B3  
Cont  
14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 12, wherein said microprocessor further determining whether the data being transmitted comprise a particular ~~data~~ packet type.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for communicating data among different units, comprising:  
a data channel having a plurality of time slots for transmitting and receiving data;  
each unit comprising a microprocessor coupled to said data channel for monitoring and processing data;  
said microprocessor adjusting a time ~~period~~ slot duration of one of said time slots depending on content of the time slot;  
~~said microprocessor adjusting a time period of one of said time slots depending on content of the time slot;~~  
wherein said microprocessor adjusts the time slot duration to a first time period if the data are not transmitted, and adjusts the time slot duration to a second time period if data are being transmitted;  
wherein said microprocessor further determines whether the data being transmitted comprise a particular ~~data~~ packet type; and  
wherein said microprocessor adjusts said time slot duration to a third time period, if the data comprise said particular ~~data~~ packet type.

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16. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The system of claim 15, wherein said second time period is greater than said first time period.

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17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 16, wherein said third time period is greater than said first time period.